

Today we join together to pray on this First Friday and the second week of Lent.

In a conversation this morning we were discussing the movie The Passion of Christ. While going around the table it was obvious there were mixed feelings to watching a movie with very graphic images of the scourging of Jesus.

Although it is difficult to watch, the Church reminds us that we reflect on the sufferings of Christ in order to deepen our understanding of the love the Father has for us, "God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." JN 3:16.

Sacrifice is always hard but the end result is a deeper appreciation and love for the one who sacrificed by those who received the blessings. Many blessings have been received by me and my family as a result of the sufferings that were endured by my parents. Our love for them has continued to grow as the years go by. If this takes place through those whom we know personally, how much more will we grow in grace through our personal love and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Today on this First Friday we are reminded of the Heart of Jesus which is the symbol of ultimate love. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque reminds us. "Behold the heart of him who loved so much." It truly is the heart of love and his sufferings that brought the world peace which surpasses all understanding.

Throughout this day the the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the chapel and is open for private adoration until 6:30pm. At that time we will gather in the main Church to pray the Stations of the Cross and Benediction beginning at 7pm. The Knights of Columbus are generously providing a simple soup meal at the end. Please bring your family and join your brothers and sisters as we deepen our Lenten prayer which, in turn deepens our love for Christ. As his love has brought us life we bring life to our homes and the world.

May the Lord bless you and your family with his peace.
Fr. Tim

Fr. Timothy D. Hogan
Pastor
Holy Family Parish
24505 Meadowbrook Road
Novi, MI 48375
248-349-8847
frhogan.holyfamily@parishmail.com